

Springfield News and Views

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ONE MORE SURPLUS

The last fiscal year again ended in the black with an operating surplus of \$245,000 and a utility operating surplus of \$31,000. Some of the large increases in revenue for 2007 were the capital levies paid by the developers \$717,000, the sale of gravel \$441,000, Disaster Financial Assistance \$590,000 and other miscellaneous revenues at \$688,000. The Video Lottery Terminal Grants provided revenues of \$264,000 and Condition Grants \$64,000 respectively.

FEDERAL GAS TAX TRANSFERS

The RM of Springfield will receive a total of \$1,825,138.09 in Federal Gas Tax Transfers from the years 2005 to 2010. These funds can be used for public transit, water, wastewater, solid waste, community energy systems, and transportation infrastructure projects. I am actively lobbying council to improve feeder road routes throughout the RM from gravel to a chip seal road surfaces with the aid of these funds. These strategic feeder routes will take some of the congestion off the dangerous high traffic highways such as #15 and/or improve other gravel road routes to provincial highways. Also we need to seriously look at some form of a public transit initiative to help the youth in the communities with transportation costs to the colleges and universities to and from Winnipeg.

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

The RM of Springfield owns 12 bridges and the Cooks Creek Conservation District owns 13 bridges within the boundaries of Springfield. The RM completed repairs and upgrades to 7 bridges and one complete replacement, the other four bridges were considered in good shape at the last inspection. In 2007 the Zora Road Bridge N7-12-6E received extensive repairs to piles, pilecaps, stringers, abutment walls, rip rap, posts and guardrails at \$161,121. In 2008 the following four bridges Colony Road NW 12-11-8E, Hazelridge Road NW26-11-8E, Melrose Road N 25-12-5E, and River Road N 26-10-8E will undergo structural maintenance repairs of totaling \$185,000.

The RM will need to complete another bridge assessment program in 2009 to ensure that the bridges are maintained to handle the posted limits. The CCCD has not completed any significant repairs on any of their structures to date and will become a major problem in the future if upgrades are not completed.